FORUM

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*** STATE-WIDE MEETING! ***

A state-wide meeting of the Washington State Chapter of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, April 20, at Wesley House, 4205 -- 15th N.E., Seattle.

This will mark CCI's initial state meeting and will be open without charge to all interested persons.

A major proposal, whether or not CCI should sponsor an initiative drive to place the assassination issue on the state ballot, will be discussed in detail. Preparations for this initiative are already underway. However, since volunteers and money are essential to the success of this drive, the support for such a move will be assessed at the meeting before actual steps begin.

At the afternoon meeting, State Chairman Edd A. Jeffords will deliver a welcome and speak on the impact of the Washington CCI. Two members of our Speakers Bureau, George Rennar and Lawrence Haapanen, will speak on the assassination and the Garrison investigation. Rennar is a graduate law student at UW and Haapanen is a former captain of the UW debate team now residing in Oregon. Robert Hinz, editor of Tyee Magazine, will lead discussion on the initiative issue.

In addition, tapes by National Chairman Steven J. Burton and District Attorney Jim Garrison will be played. The Garrison tape is a speech made at the University of New Mexico recently in which he reveals startling new information. Also at the meeting, several area chairmen will be appointed from volunteers, as well as chairmen of several CCI state committees.

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In New Orleans, MARK LANE endorsed a Washington initiative drive and pointed out that it would be the first time the issue has ever gone before the people of any state. Lane also indicated he might speak in this state on behalf of such a drive. His new book, CITIZENS' DISSENT, will be out June 3 and he will be on a national speaking tour.

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EXCERPT: "Thank you very much...I am encouraged by your support."
-Jim Garrison, D.A., to Washington CCI

NOTES FROM OUR MEN IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.----At least one Washington congressman, Floyd V. Hicks (D-6th Dist.), indicated he had a somewhat open mind on the validity of the Warren Report. The congressman said "I have not read the Warren Report, but have seen only news reports about it and various interpretations and opinions of it."

Asked if he would support a new investigation if given the opportunity, he said, "I am unable to answer the question without first knowing of some good reason why further investigation should be undertaken."

The Washington CCI intends to supply Rep. Hicks with the "good reason".

Congressman Brock Adams (D-7th Dist.), on the other hand, was more evasive in his answer. He said, "I have very mixed feelings about re-opening any inquiry into the death of President Kennedy. I have not wanted to enter the public forum with regard to this matter because I have not been convinced that it would be in the public interest to re-open the entire matter."

Rep. Adams also indicated he would not cooperate with the Washington CCI in placing material regarding the assassination in the Congressional Record.

Queried on the same issue, Sen. Warren G. Magnuson attempted to invoke the "magic" of the Kennedy name by saying, "I share the views of Sen. Robert Kennedy that the Warren Report was researched by very capable, respected citizens, and was submitted to the public only after thorough study. At this time, I have every reason to rely on its findings."

EXCERPT: "I am not so much concerned with the right of everyone to say anything he pleases as I am about our need as a self-governing people to hear everything relevant."

-President John F. Kennedy, 1961

WE NEED MONEY! We don't have to tell you that it costs money to print and mail this newsletter. We also have other expenses to bear in our struggle to bring the truth to the fore. Last month, we received nearly $70 in donations. That, however, is barely enough to continue our present activities, and we are now ready to expand. We have the people and the channels. Now we need the money! Please send a dollar or more to helpsupport the Washington CCI.

MAYBE THEY'RE HERE!

In his speech at the University of New Mexico, Jim Garrison charged that many potential witnesses are now working for the Boeing Co. in jobs obtained for them by the federal government. Seattle, incidentally, though not specified by Mr. Garrison, is about as far as you can get from New Orleans and still be in the United States.

Along the same line, in an address at Green River College, Elmer Moore, special agent in charge of the Seattle bureau of the Secret Service, revealed he had been assigned to Chief Justice Earl Warren during the Commission's investigation.

The CCI speculates that Moore and the Boeing workers were sent here in the belief they would go un-detected and unsubpeoned by the D.A. in his far-reaching probe of President Kennedy's murder.

The Washington CCI has notified Mr. Garrison of Agent Moore's presence here.

EXCERPT: "It has always been my view that an appropriate committee of Congress should make an inquiry of the questions which have been raised regarding the assassination of President Kennedy and determine whether or not a new investigation is needed."

-Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, to National CCI

DON'T FORGET THE STATE MEETING APRIL 20

(Ed. Note: Mark Lane, author of RUSH TO JUDGEMENT, is now serving as an unpaid chief investigator for D.A. Jim Garrison in New Orleans. He has consented to write a regular column for the CCI FORUM, the first appearing below.)

TWO SUBPOENAS

By Mark Lane

NEW ORLEANS, La.----During March, 1968, Jim Garrison moved suddenly and dramatically toward evidence that had been in protective custody for more than four years. He asked the Criminal District Court in Louisana for a Certificate to compel Allen Dulles to testify before the New Orleans Grand Jury. He also sought to subpoena the Zapruder film.

"WE DECLINE"

Dulles had been the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency until September 27, 1961. While Dulles was head of that agency, a CIA front negotiated with a firm in New Orleans for the purchase of trucks and other vehicles to use in the CIA-sponsored invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs. The CIA front organization also used the name "Lee Harvey Oswald" in connection with the purchase, although Oswald was, at that time, in the Soviet Union.

In his motion papers, Garrison charged that one of the witnesses subpoened by the grand jury in the investigation into the assassination was Gordon Novel, who "claims to have been employed by the CIA at the time that Allen Dulles was the head of the CIA". Added Garrison, "Gordon Novel fled the State of Louisiana to avoid testifying and sought to enlist the aid of the CIA in preventing his return."

Garrison also pointed out that David Ferrie, who had been named in the indictment as a conspirator in the plot to assassinate President Kennedy, was an employee of the CIA during the Dulles regime. "Among other things," said Garrison, "he (Ferrie) was a flying instructor in Guatemala prior to the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion."

The application for the Certificate was heard before Judge Matthew S. Braniff, and on March 7, he issued the Certificate. In that document, Braniff certified that each of Garrison's charges reported above was supported by fact. The issuance of that Certificate not only offered judicial support for the very serious contentions made by Garrison, but constituted the first judicial finding regarding the involvement of the CIA with persons said to have played a role in planning the assassination.

On March 7, 1968, Judge Braniff's Certificate became a matter of public record. From that day forward, it became available to the media. Yet the press has universally ignored the document and its explosive ramifications. The silence is ominous, and its totallity gives the impression of orchestration.

Several days before Garrison acted, he told me that he was considering an attempt to subpoena Dulles. Over coffee at the New Orleans Athletic Club, Garrison observed, "I'm sure that Dulles could have told the Commission a great deal had he been a witness rather than a member." He then said, "In the moving papers, I'm going to point out that in spite of his background and familiarity with the CIA aspects of the case, Dulles was never called as a witness. I won't even mention that he was a Commissioner." He added with a smile, "I wonder what his response will be?" "I presume", I answered, "that you think he will be foolish enough to point out that he was a Commission member and thus make the connection between the CIA and the Commission for you." Garrison's answer was, "Let's see."

When it was reported that he would be subpoened, Dulles spoke with the press. He said, "Of course I wasn't a witness, I was a member of the Commission." Far more important was the response of the United States Attorney in Washington, D.C. The proper method for serving a man who resides or works in Washington is to secure a Certificate and forward it to the U.S. Attorney there. It is then his obligation to present the Certificate to a court of record in Washington and seek to compel the attendance of the prospective witness in the state of origin. Accordingly, the executive assistant D.A. of New Orleans mailed the signed Certificate, with a check to cover Dulles' traveling expenses, to David G. Bress, the United States Attorney in Washington, D.C.

(Over)

Bress replied: "We decline to represent you in this matter".
He returned the Certificate and the check. Dulles, therefore, was spared the necessity of testifying about the CIA and the assassination. "We decline" - the words of the federal government in response to a lawful effort to uncover the assassins of President Kennedy.

LIFE YIELDS

Garrison's efforts to secure the 8 mm motion picture film of the assassination purchased by LIFE magazine (TIME, Inc.)were more rewarding. The film had not left its vault in New York for years. LIFE had declined CBS' request to show it on its four, one-hour documentary programs aired last fall. LIFE has rejected every television and theatrical offer for the film, thus deliberately restricting, to an almost minuscule number, those persons who have examined it.

Garrison began his campaign to secure the film with a denunciation of LIFE's suppression of the evidence. Speaking at the national convention of the National District Attorneys Association in New Orleans, he observed that LIFE and the federal government had cooperated in the denial of important evidence to the American people. When LIFE denied the charge and expressed its outrage, Garrison moved quickly. He prepared a Grand Jury Subpoena Duces Tecum to TIME, Inc., for production of the Zapruder film. "If they don't wish to be known for suppressing the evidence any longer, let them send it along," he said. LIFE, trapped, capitulated at once. The film would be delivered to Garrison and could be shown to the grand jury, used at the trial of Clay Shaw and remain in Garrison's possession until the trial was concluded, said LIFE, so long as it is understood that LIFE, "does not consent to the release of or showing of the film in whole or in part, publicly or to or by any other news media, and that its use be restricted ridiidly to the restrictive legal purposes of the subpoena duces tecum." LIFE evidently felt that any permission which contained a five-word phrase of which three words were "restricted", "rigidly", and "restrictive" couldn't be all bad.

LIFE acknowledged that several "damaged frames" in the Zapruder film were missing from the original. It was from that incomplete film that the Warren Commission published frames in its volumes. An excellent first-generation color reprint was delivered to Garrison and screened by the grand jury and Garrison's staff on March 28. The film was shown numerous times and at various speeds. The effect that the fatal bullet had on the President could not be more obvious.

With a shocking suddenous that caused the intent audiance to gasp anew each time that it was run, the President is seen to be driven back into the seat and to his left.

Asst. D.A. Andrew Sciambra observed that, "He could not have reacted so violently to a hard right to the head. Otherwise, it is reminiscent of watching a boxer driven back and out by a tremendous blow. The shot came from the right front. No one who sees the film can doubt it. I guess that's why no one can see it."

Louis Ivon, Garrison's chief investigator, said, "I can't see how the Commission could have come to the conclusion that there was a lone assassin in the Book Depository building when it is so obvious that the man was hit from the front. I ask myself, did they fail to look at the film or completely disregard it as evidence."

O'Brien Elliott, an independent film expert whom I had invited to the screening said, "It is conclusive evidence that the shot came from the area of the grassy knoll. There is no question but that it could not have originated from the Book Depository." He added, "I think the film should not be withheld from President Johnson, by President Johnson, until 2039. I think he should see it tomorrow."

I was recently interviewed about the Zapruder film by the CBS-TV affiliate in New Orleans. A reporter asked if the press might be able to see the film while it was in New Orleans. Garrison previously had told me that he was most anxious for the press to attend a screening but that LIFE had stipulated that there be no such screening. Garrison said he was going to ask LIFE if there might be a sub rosa showing upon the condition that each reporter agree not to write about what he had seen. I find it difficult to believe that a reporter who observes the Zapruder film can ever again state that he believes the Warren Report (which, in all likelihood, he has not read) or that he continues to have faith in Earl Warren and his splendid colleagues (as if reading the Commission's work is equivalent to a theological experience).

****** STAY ON MAILING LIST ******

Since the Washington CCI cannot afford to maintain inactive persons on the mailing list, we must ask that you drop us a card if you wish to keep receiving FORUM and other announcements. If you have already written, it is not necessary to write again. Although it is not required, all donations will be appreciated.

KRAB SPONSORS WEEKLY NEWS SHOW

In addition to airing interviews, speeches and commentaries by the CCI, listener-supported KRAB-FM (107.7) is now sponsoring a weekly, one-hour news program on the assassination and the New Orleans investigations and trials. Times are listed in the KRAB bi-monthly program which is available by writing: 9029 Roosevelt Way N.E., Seattle 98115.

SPEAKERS BUREAU: The Washington CCI is now sponsoring a Speakers Bureau and will supply speakers on the assassination and investigation to any group on request. The service is without charge, although, with permission, donations will be taken. George Rennar of Seattle is chairman of the bureau and is also looking for qualified speakers to assist him. Speakers can be scheduled for groups in Seattle by contacting Rennar at 7316 - 13th Ave. N.W.; or in Tacoma by writing CCI, 7001 - 106th St. E., Puyallup 98371. Reservations should be made well in advance of the desired date.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Scan your local press and send us any stories connected with the assassination for our clipping library (which is open for your use). Call radio talk shows and bring the subject before the public. Speak to your local newspaper about running more news from New Orleans. Ask your local book store to stock books on the assassination. Read the Warren Report and the works of the critics. Tell your friends about CCI. Circulate petitions calling for a new investigation (available free from us). Ask your congressman his feelings about a new investigation. Support the activities of the CCI. Attend the state meeting April 20th in Seattle. Schedule a speaker for your group. If we work together as one non-partison group, we can bring the truth before America!

IN THE PLANNING STAGE

The Washington CCI is planning several state activities for the near future. If the money can be raised, we plan to bring Mort Sahl here on a speaking tour. We are also working on several showings of Mark Lane's 2½-hour film RUSH TO JUDGEMENT. By next month, plans will be firm for silent vigils on President Kennedy's birthday, May 29th. We plan at least two, for Seattle and Tacoma, but would like to see them in other cities as well.

DON'T MISS THE STATE MEETING!

RESPONSE FORM

I will/will not attend the state meeting April 20.
Please keep my name on the mailing list: Yes____, No____.
Donation included: Yes____, No____; Amount____.

NAME_____ADDRESS_____

CITY_____, SILLY ZIP_____.

Clip and mail to: Washington CCI; 7001-106th St. E., Puyallup, Wash.

BOOK REVIEW

By George Rennar

(Ed. Note: Each month in the FORUM, Mr. Rennar, chairman of the CCI Speakers Bureau and a graduate law student at the University of Washington, will review one of the many works critical of the Warren Report. Appropriately, we start the series with the work of Mark Lane, chief critic and founder of the Citizens' Committee of Inquiry.)

Mark Lane, Rush To Judgement, Holt Rinehart & Winston (1966) and Fawcett World Library (1967).

Lane was the first critic to field a systematic attack on the official story, and his book was the first thorough examination of the Warren Commission's conclusions. The subject being one of vast complexity, the book is not the last word in assassination research, but it is the indispensable beginning.

If this sounds hyperbolic, perhaps it is because this book did more than anything else to convert this writer from wholehearted support for the official fairy tale, a position adhered to with fierce tenacity for almost three years. Then I read Lane.

Rush To Judgement is primarily a massive dissection of the Report and the 26 volumes of testimony and evidence exhibits. The vast majority of the material is taken from the Commission's published material. The remainder is from other published sources and interviews with witnesses which Lane taped and filmed. A small amount of information is from the files in the National Archives. Profusely documented, its more than 4,500 footnotes make it easy to check the author's allegations and quotations.

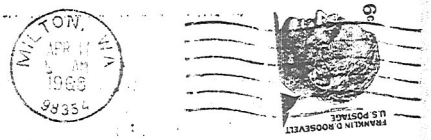
Three lines run throughout: The official story (presented objectively), a taste of what really happened insofar as is proved by the material the government chose to make public; and what the Commission did to the truth in those situations where it could not be simply ignored. The total effect is one of the most damaging condemnations of an official investigation since somebody found out what really caused the Reichstag fire.

Lane avoids the temptation to become shrill or strident. He guides the reader carefully through the confusion, using the impolite method of matching the Commission's own evidence against its conclusions.

The book does not present a counter theory, except as may be inferred by some intriguing loose ends. Some Commission supporters have criticized Lane on this account. One can only hope that Lane's association with Jim Garrison will end this criticism.

The paperback edition, besides being cheaper, is slightly revised from the hardbound and, unlike the latter, is still generally available in bookstores.

If you haven't read it, you're missing something very important.



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